

*Live the Language
Learn the Culture*

Foreign Language and Cultural Immersion Since 1968

NATIONAL REGISTRATION CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD



Mexico 2008-2009

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NRCSA is a proud member of:



National Registration Center for Study Abroad
PO Box 1393 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA
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National Registration Center for Study Abroad (NRCSA)

P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA. Tel. 414 278 0631 Fax. 414 271 8884



Learn the Culture  Live the Language  Since 1968

BUENAVISTA RURAL STUDIES CENTER – BUENAVISTA, MEXICO

ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

Buenavista Rural Studies Center has its headquarters in bustling, semitropical Cuernavaca, just 90 minutes south of Mexico City. Buenavista Rural Studies Center Community offers strong academic programs of study of the Spanish language, Latin American studies, and extensive field study excursions to sites of archaeological and historical interest in Mexico. Those who study the Spanish language and Latin American studies at Buenavista Rural Studies Center represent all ages and professions. What all these individuals have in common is a sincere desire to learn to speak Spanish with a level of proficiency, an intellectual curiosity about the history and culture of Mexico, and a strong motivation to experience this culture on a firsthand basis.

Buenavista de Cuellar is a village located about an hour's drive from Cuernavaca and is the home of the Rural Studies Program. It is a charming small town, reflecting the serenity of decades past, with adobe walls and tiled roofs and a population of 9,000 people, nestled in an agricultural valley, just over the state line in the neighboring state of Guerrero. Buenavista is a relatively prosperous community, with cattle raising and production of byproducts (cheese, milk, leather products) of this as primary sources of income. Many of the village's residents live and work in the United States during agricultural production periods and return to their homes for holidays or seasonal work. While this is not a primary focus for the school, many students who have studied in Buenavista have found that their stay in the village provided insight into the lives and concerns of the large migrant population, giving them a new perspective not frequently recognized or appreciated in the United States. In addition, talking with members of the family who have been "left behind" enables students to develop a more complete view of the social, economic, and personal lives of the people who have been forced to choose this way of life and work.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Students are placed in classes according to their speaking proficiency in Spanish, and their language learning ability. Class groupings are refined, and change from time to time as students progress through the different levels. Group classes have 3-5 students per class allowing ample individual attention. The weekly enrollment in Buenavista is monitored carefully to prevent too many students being in the village at any one time. This ensures the spirit of the program is maintained.

Group, 20 hrs/wk This program places a heavy emphasis on speaking Spanish and developing conversational skills. Classes are held daily, Monday through Friday, for 4 hours. Additional Spanish language study occurs outside of the classroom during the cultural and craft activities. During these activities the instructors will only speak in Spanish to the students. The language classes and seminars are held in a quaint schoolhouse which is typical of most of the homes in Buenavista.

Agricultural Programs Buenavista subsists largely on its agricultural production. University students majoring in agriculture or professionals who are working in agriculture with Hispanic workers in the United States or Canada can request special programming to help with their needs, from understanding agricultural production methods in Mexico, to specialized vocabulary that would be helpful in their daily work. It is possible to structure a program at Buenavista specifically designed for groups of agriculturalists or a college of agriculture from the United States or Canada.

Opportunities for Health Professionals In addition to the information on natural medicine and healing, those interested in medical practices in Mexico can observe at the excellent rural health clinic in the village. This is an ideal setting for those who are working with Spanish-speaking patients in various areas of medicine in the United States. Special vocabulary classes in medical terminology in Spanish are offered upon request.

ACCOMMODATIONS

At Buenavista Rural Studies Center, a family stay is an important part of the program, not only for the hospitality students enjoy, but as an additional firsthand way to experience the culture of Mesoamerica. Families are carefully selected and supervised. The family housing program includes three meals per day.

Moderately priced hotels are also available.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Each weekend field study trips are sponsored to places of historic and cultural interest. Areas around Mexico City are frequent destinations. Field trips in the Cuernavaca area are conducted weekly, and all excursions are led by Buenavista Rural Studies Center anthropologists. Excursion fees are at additional cost.

TO REGISTER: Complete the NRCSA Preregistration Form or contact the National Registration Center for Study Abroad at 823 North 2nd Street, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA, or by calling (414) 278-0631; by Fax (414) 271-8884.

**Check out our website at <http://www.nrca.com>
or e-mail us at study@nrca.com**

Program & Admission Information - Buenavista, Mexico

Programs

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Day - At - A - Glance

09:00 - 13:00, M-F Spanish classes
13:00 - 14:00, T & Th Conversation Assistance
16:00 - 17:15, M-Th Latin American Studies
18:00 - 19:00, Wed Conversation Exchange (upon request)

* Day-At-A-Glance is a sample day and will vary depending on enrollment, time of year, lodging, etc. It is designed to show content rather than precise scheduling

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Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 17 years and older are welcome regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. Students under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. No previous knowledge of Spanish is required except where otherwise indicated.

For students with less exposure to Latin America (and traveling on their own) it is suggested to spend the first week or two in a more metropolitan city to allow for cultural adjustment. Those who have traveled in Latin America can spend their entire period of study in Buenavista.

Students desiring credit for their study programs should contact their home school or request the NRCSA Credit Fact Sheet. Generally, U.S. universities consider 15 hours of study to be equal to 1 semester credit.

For more information about academic credit in Spanish speaking countries, [please click here](#).
For general information on academic credit, [please click here](#).

Programs

Group, 20 hrs/wk
Agricultural Programs
Opportunities for
Health Professionals

Admissions & Academic Credit

Activities

Special Activities

Comments

"Living in a small village (Buenavista) for seven weeks is where I was able to see, learn, and LIVE the culture of Mexico. My Spanish improved overwhelmingly."

Nurses Aide, North Adams, CA

"I have attended Cemanahuac before and so most everything was as I expected. My Spanish improved dramatically and I got to see old friends."

Business Person, Mountain View, CA

"I especially enjoyed staying with the family... finding out I was able to communicate with Spanish speaking people... learning more about their culture and country from them."

Manager Non-Profit Program, Chicago, IL

"I enjoyed most the community...the culture and the friendliness of the staff. I enjoyed home cooked, authentic Mexican meals with my family. I just love Mexico and can't wait to return for a lengthier stay!...I am much more fluent in Spanish. I learned a lot of grammar. Many people are interested in someone (both from a personal and business aspect) who has lived abroad, as well as in someone who is bilingual in Spanish."

Teacher, Speceport, NY

"The program was excellent! One of the best aspects was the additional hours of intensive language classes in the evening. The teachers and families were very friendly!"

Undergraduate Student, Buffalo, NY

ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Foreign language immersion classes
- ✓ Small interactive group and/or one-on-one instruction
- ✓ Culture program integrated into conversation classes, activities
- ✓ Meet-the-People interaction at school, homestays, & community events
- ✓ Orientation covering attractions, how to, health, safety, entertainment
- ✓ Academic assessments, placement-exit tests, Achievement Certificate
- ✓ Lodging (reduced fee if no lodging needed)
- ✓ Meals and/or cooking facilities at most centres
- ✓ Insurance: medical and accident - see below
- ✓ Emergency Hotline staffed 24 hours/day - see below
- ✓ Housing Coordinator familiar with area homestays, apartments, hotels
- ✓ Activity Coordinator facilitates transfers, cultural/social activities, tours
- ✓ Program Director experienced working with foreign participants
- ✓ Qualified, experienced, and certified educators
- ✓ Weekly proficiency goals and progress assessments
- ✓ Planning and Orientation materials
- ✓ International Ambiance, participants from around-the-world welcome
- ✓ Telecom assistance, web/e-mail access, usually on-site
- ✓ Local taxes for included services
- ✓ 24:7 Culture Immersion w/ native speakers: class, homestay, community
- ✓ **ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE the following INSURANCE***

ACCIDENT INSURANCE up to \$10,000 SICKNESS INSURANCE up to \$10,000

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION up to \$25,000

EMERGENCY REUNION up to \$5,000

REPATRIATION up to \$7,500

LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000

plus

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

MANY ALSO OFFER

- ✓ **Tours:** cultural visits, day and weekend fieldtrips
- ✓ **Art:** classes/workshops, craft, dance, theater, fashion, music, photo
- ✓ **Humanities:** culture, area studies, hist, lit, gov't, educ, comm, plus...
- ✓ **Health:** golf, swimming, tennis, diving, skiing, riding, plus...
- ✓ **Special:** vocabulary classes tailored to your professional needs
- ✓ **Lodging:** homestay, apartment, dorm, hotel, special diet
- ✓ **Food:** home cooking, cooking classes, dine-around, wine tasting
- ✓ **Family:** services, daycare, child classes, community services
- ✓ **Teacher:** training, workshops, practicums, practice teaching, ECH
- ✓ **Teen:** camps and youth programs (including experiential)
- ✓ **University:** credit, undergraduate and graduate
- ✓ **Professional:** development credit in many fields, licensure, CEU
- ✓ **Volunteer:** medical, social service, ecology, teach plus...
- ✓ **Internships:** business, media, arts, eco, tourism, computer, plus...
- ✓ **Business:** classes, visits, networking, executive support services
- ✓ **Peer-to-Peer:** share interests, network by profession or hobby
- ✓ **Current Events & Professional Workshops, Holiday Courses**
- ✓ **Distance** educ liaison service, independent studies, research assist
- ✓ **Free** books and course materials. Return at end of studies
- ✓ **Free** airport transfers and internet access
- ✓ **Assessment** reports for attendance, progress, acculturation if needed
- ✓ **Medical:** professional training, law, social work, sciences etc.

** If you have a problem while studying abroad, call the 24 hour hotline! Call Any Time from Anywhere! Medical or travel emergencies, legal or medical or embassy referrals, lost passport or luggage, emergency message relay, coordinating emergency prescription replacement or cash transfer, emergency translations, 24-hour medical monitoring. Problems seldom occur, but when they do, it is nice to know insurance and worldwide assistance are included in your cost for study dates prepaid through NRCSA as reflected on your NRCSA confirmation. Additional optional insurance available upon request. Refer to the certificate for specific terms, conditions and other details regarding benefits, limitations, eligibility and exclusions of this plan. Questions? Contact NRCSA: Tel: 414-278-0631 ... E-Mail: info@nrcca.com ... Web: <http://www.nrcca.com>*

For Questions, Concerns, or Registration, Contact NRCSA
National Registration Center for Study Abroad * Box 1393, Milwaukee WI 53201 USA
Tel 414-278-0631 * Fax 414-271-8884* www.nrcca.com * info@nrcca.com
Since 1968 * Language-Culture Immersion Worldwide * Start Weekly * All Ages * Credit, CEU or Enrichment

PREREGISTRATION FORM – NRCSA PROGRAMS

1. Complete & send to NRCSA, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA • Tel. (414) 278-0631 • Fax (414) 271-8884 • Web: www.nrcca.com
2. Enclose a non-refundable deposit/registration fee of \$140 per person, per program, payable to NRCSA (\$40 registration fee & \$100 program deposit applied towards the program costs).
3. Register early. Add \$40 per person late enrollment fee if paying in full within 40 days of departure. Within 20 days, payments by certified check.
4. Credit Cards may be used for deposits (see "H" below). NRCSA street address for overnight deliveries is 207 East Buffalo Street, Suite 610, Milwaukee, WI 53202 USA. You are welcome to photocopy this form. Please send separate form for each school if taking multiple programs.

A. Name(s) _____ Sex _____ Birthdate _____ Citizenship _____
Please print

Employer _____ Occupation _____
If student, school attending and year

Street: _____ Tel. Home: _____
Street address (not P.O. Box) where someone can sign for documents sent to you.

City/State/Zip: _____ Tel. Work: _____

Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

In Emergency, notify: _____
(Name, Address, Phone)

B. BACKGROUND: _____
 Describe your background in the course you're taking abroad. Check your ability level: Beginner Post Beginner
 Intermediate Advanced

C. LODGING: _____
Schools will try (cannot guarantee) to meet them. Special Diet (may be available) at additional cost.

Check Preferences.
 Single Share Twin Other: _____
 Yes Smoking No Smoking Either
 Yes Pets No Pets Either
 Yes Children No Children Either

D. GOALS: _____

E. INSURANCE: Includes prepaid study dates. To extend coverage up to 30 days before/after study dates, add \$5/day or \$19/week and advise dates.

PREFER: Homestay Involvement Freedom to Come/Go
ARE YOU? Quiet Outgoing Frequent Traveler
OBJECTIVES: Enrichment Academic Credit Job Related
HOBBIES: Reading Music Cooking Jogging Sports

F. PROGRAM INFORMATION	School/Center
Program Name (use title from Dates & Fees)	City/Country
Date: Start Program	Date: Start Lodging (most start day before)
No. of hours day/week	No. of weeks attending
Disabilities/Allergies/Health Problems	2nd Choice Program
How did you learn about NRCSA?	Social Security Number
Options (see program for choices)	
Your Signature (if you are under age 18, both parents must also sign)	

INSURANCE INCLUDED for PRE-PAID STUDY DATES
ACCIDENT / MEDICAL INSURANCE UP TO \$10,000
EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION UP TO \$25,000
EMERGENCY REUNION UP TO \$5,000
REPATRIATION UP TO \$7,500
LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000
24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE-MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE
 For More Info: <http://www.nrcca.com/INS24hrHotline.html>

H. CREDIT CARDS:

For program deposit only (**not final payment**) check:
 VISA Mastercard American Express Amount Charged \$ _____

Card Number (13 or more numbers) Exp Date

SIGNATURE (as on card) PRINT name (as on card)

CHANGE FEES of at least \$35 apply for each change you make. Some "changes" may result in cancellation fees.

CANCELLATIONS are effective the day received in writing by NRCSA in Milwaukee. All payments less \$140 per program fully refundable up to 60 days prior to departure. For cancellations within 60 days of departure, \$250 per person is not refundable; within 40 days of departure, less 50% of program cost or \$300 per person (whichever is greater); within 14 days of departure, 100% of program cost is non-refundable. Airline cancellation penalties, if any, are in addition to those outlined above. Cancellation penalties are per person, per program. Medical, baggage (above that included) and cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Attach a note if you have a medical condition or Rx which the school/center should know about.

CONDITIONS: Each institution listed herein is independent of the National Registration Center for Study Abroad (hereinafter referred to as NRCSA, controls, and will periodically make changes in the program. Classes may fill, be changed, or dropped by the sponsoring academic institutions. NRCSA is a division of Mibar Ltd. and is not responsible for these changes or other actions beyond its control such as strikes, postal delays or loss, mechanical breakdowns, weather, government actions, delay or acts/omissions of suppliers. NRCSA may make changes or substitutions or cancel any program. In the event of entire program cancellation by NRCSA, liability is limited to refunding all monies paid to NRCSA for said program. Passengers electing not to use portions of a program shall not be entitled to a refund. No agent or representative of NRCSA shall have the right to alter the provisions listed herein. Costs based on tariffs and exchange rates effective the date of printing of this material, and are subject to change. Additional costs resulting from such change will be paid by the participant. Registrations are valid when accepted by NRCSA in Milwaukee. The passage contract used by the airline, when issued, is the sole agreement between it and you. Photographs of or statements by participants may be used by NRCSA. NRCSA, group leaders or foreign coordinators, at their discretion, may get medical assistance for participants, or place them in a hospital, or fly them back to the U.S. for medical treatment. All costs related to medical treatment or evacuation will be paid by the participant. As visitors you are expected to adhere to foreign rules and customs. If the foreign staff feels you are not adhering to these rules and customs, your participation in the program shall terminate immediately without refund whatsoever. A "homestay" is defined as living with a local person(s) in the foreign country and may not be multi generational, multinational, etc. It is the responsibility of the participant to have required proof of citizenship and visa(s) if applicable - check with the consulate of the country(s) you will be visiting.

INFORMATION USE: Information provided to NRCSA will be shared with participating organizations to facilitate your registration.

NOTE: Classes canceled in honor of local holidays are not made up. Foreign Language schools use placement tests. If there is no group at your level, smaller group or tutor classes may be substituted with fewer hours per week. Classes are conducted entirely in the target language. See **Fast Facts Guide** for more information.